

No. 96

BLACK HAWK

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BLACKHAWK

BLACKHAWK

OVERNIGHT PEACEFUL AND HAPPY DROZH CHANGED FROM A LAND OF FREEDOM TO A PLACE OF TERROR-MAINTAINED OPPRESSION UNDER THE IRON DICTATORSHIP OF THE EVIL BEAUTY, FURIA! THE BLACKHAWKS WERE POWERLESS TO FIGHT HER OPENLY! THEY COULD ONLY GO UNDERGROUND, KNOWING THAT AT THE END OF A BITTER ROAD LAY...

7 GRAVES FOR 7 BLACKHAWKS

ONLY THESE, FURIA! THE BLACKHAWKS WILL RISE FROM THE GRAVE IF NECESSARY TO FREE YOUR PEOPLE FROM OPPRESSION!

HAVE YOU ANY LAST WORDS BEFORE YOUR EXECUTION, BLACKHAWK?

FIRE!



ALL PROZN HAS GATHERED FOR DEDICATION CEREMONIES AT THE OPENING OF ITS NEW SUPER-STEEL MILL!

THERE'S THE NEW MILL! BOMB FORMATION, FELLOWS! DIVE IN ROTATION AND RELEASE ON THE COUNT!

JAWOHL!

YA!

ROGER!

OUI!

THE BLACKHAWKS! THEY HAVE COME TO HONOR THE DEDICATION OF OUR GREAT STEEL MILL!

THEY ARE THE FRIENDS OF ALL WHO BUILD FOR PEACE!

SUDDENLY...

EEEEHH! THE BLACKHAWKS ARE BOMBING OUR MILL!

TH-THOSE AREN'T BOMBS! THEY BURST IN MIDAIR!

WH-WHY, THEY'RE ROSES! THE BLACKHAWKS ARE HONORING OUR GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE BY BOMBING US WITH ROSES!

HOW BEAUTIFUL! AND HOW FRAGRANT! AREN'T THE BLACKHAWKS WONDERFUL?

MOMENTS LATER, AFTER A BEAUTIFUL PATTERNED LANDING...

BLACKHAWK, YOU HAVE HONORED US BEYOND COMPARE!

PRESIDENT KARAS, WHEN ANYONE HAS LABORED AS HARD AS YOU HAVE FOR A PEOPLE'S FREEDOM, NO HONOR IS TOO GREAT!

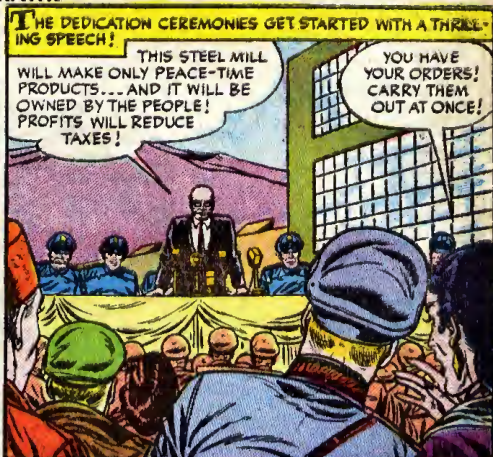
WE'RE RUINED! YOU DIDN'T EXPECT THE BLACKHAWKS TO BE PRESENT WHEN WE SEIZED THE COUNTRY, FURIA!

DON'T BE SILLY! I ALLOWED FOR EVERY OBSTACLE... INCLUDING THE BLACKHAWKS! I HAVE THEIR DOOM ALREADY PLANNED, YAKOVI!



BLACKHAWK, MAY I PRESENT GENERAL YAKOVI, OUR CHIEF OF DEFENSE, AND MADAM FURIA, CHIEF OF HOME LIVING!

THIS IS INDEED A PLEASURE! YOUR NATION IS ON THE WAY TO BECOMING THE SHOW-PLACE OF A FREE WORLD!



THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES GET STARTED WITH A THRILLING SPEECH!

THIS STEEL MILL WILL MAKE ONLY PEACE-TIME PRODUCTS... AND IT WILL BE OWNED BY THE PEOPLE! PROFITS WILL REDUCE TAXES!

YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS! CARRY THEM OUT AT ONCE!



SUDDENLY...

WHA... WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, MR. PRESIDENT!

EASY, FELLOWS! GET THE FACTS BEFORE YOU ACT!



I'LL EXPLAIN, BLACKHAWK! WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT PRESIDENT KARAS WAS PLOTTING TO SELL OUR COUNTRY TO OUR COMMUNISTS!

WHA...? WHY, THAT'S RIDICULOUS! NO GREATER CHAMPION OF PERSONAL FREEDOM EVER LIVED!



YES? WHEN WE ARE READY TO RELEASE OUR EVIDENCE AT HIS TRIAL YOU MAY CHANGE YOUR MIND... IF YOU ARE STILL ALIVE!

THIS IS NOTHING BUT A VICIOUS SEIZURE OF POWER! WE ARE SWORN TO OPPOSE ANY SUCH UNJUST OPPRESSION!



THEY'RE FIGHTING OUR TROOPS AND YOU KNOW WHAT TERRIBLE FIGHTERS THEY ARE!

RELAX, YAKOVI! I'VE ALLOWED FOR ALL THIS IN MY PLANS!



HAWK-A

WAIT, BLACKHAWKS! ARE YOU CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE OR OUTLAWRY?

BLACKHAWK



SINCE WHEN DO THE FAMED BLACKHAWKS DEFY THE LAW TO INTERFERE WITH A LEGAL ARREST?

HOLD IT, MEN! SHE'S RIGHT! WHATEVER WE THINK OF HER TRUMPED-UP CHARGES, SHE HAS THE LAW ON HER SIDE!



WE'LL SEE THAT YOU GET A QUICK TRIAL, SIR, AND A FAIR ONE! THE CHARGE AGAINST YOU IS PREPOSTEROUS!

THANK YOU, BLACKHAWK! AND PLEASE SEE THAT MY PEOPLE AREN'T OPPRESSED AND ROBBED!



RELUCTANTLY, THE BLACKHAWKS LEAVE PRESIDENT KARAS A PRISONER AND TAKE OFF FOR BLACKHAWK ISLAND!

I TELL YOU, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TROUBLE WITH THEM, FURIA!

STOP WORRYING! YOU SAW ME OUTWIT THE BLACKHAWKS THIS TIME AND I'LL DO IT AGAIN! IF THEY INTERFERE, I'LL DESTROY THEM!



GENERAL YAKOVI IS YOUR NEW LEADER DURING THIS EMERGENCY! GO HOME QUIETLY AND AWAIT ORDERS! YOU'RE UNDER MARTIAL LAW NOW!

TELL THEM THE FACTORY WILL OPEN TOMORROW BUT IT WILL MANUFACTURE GUNS AND TANKS NOT PLOWS!



THAT NIGHT IN THE BLACKHAWK'S RADIO ROOM ---

SACRE BLEU! ZAT WOMAN MAKE ZE MONKEYS OUT OF US! SHE STEAL ZE COUNTRY RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES!

I'M NOT HAPPY EITHER, ANDRE, BUT WE SWORE TO UPHOLD THE LAW! UNTIL SHE BECOMES AN AGGRESSOR, WE'RE HELPLESS!



HOWEVER, WE'RE NOT ABANDONING THE PEOPLE OF DROZH! WE'LL GO UNDERGROUND UNTIL WE SEE WHAT'S BEHIND THIS BRAZEN PLOT!

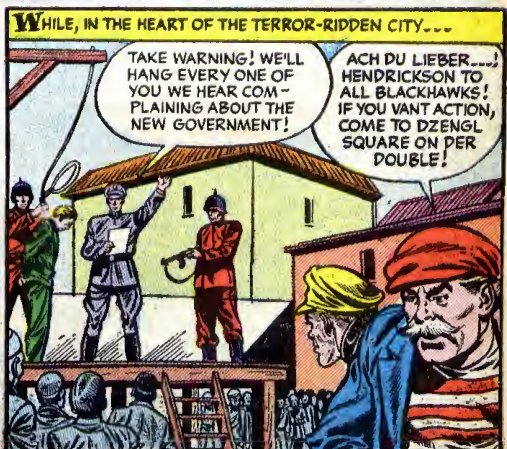
YIPSY GLEE! CHOP CHOP AFLAID FOR MOMENT THE BLACKHAWKS NOT SEE ANY ACTION!



PRESENTLY THE BLACKHAWKS ARE STUDYING CONDITIONS IN DROZH AT FIRST HAND!

BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE MY HUSBAND TO PRISON WITHOUT EVIDENCE!

WE DON'T NEED EVIDENCE, WOMAN! GENERAL YAKOVI HAS DISSOLVED THE COURTS! WE'RE THE LAW IN DROZH NOW!







SET IT UP ON THE PLATFORM QUICKLY!

DOWN, CHOP CHOP! LET'S GET THE SCORE BEFORE WE JUMP INTO THE GAME!



WAIT, BLACKHAWKS! SURRENDER IMMEDIATELY OR MY MEN WILL OPEN FIRE ON THE CROWD! THEY DON'T MATTER, BUT I WANT YOU ALIVE!

MERDE! ZAT SHE-WOLF MEANS IT! WE MUST SUBMIT TO SPARE INNOCENT PEOPLE!



LOCK THEM IN DUMA DUNGEON AND ANNOUNCE A PUBLIC EXECUTION FOR 9 O'CLOCK TOMORROW MORNING! LET EVERYONE WATCH THEM DIE!

STAY BACK, CHOP CHOP! THEIR ONLY HOPE OF RESCUE IS FOR US TO REMAIN FREE! IT'S ONLY LUCK WE WEREN'T DOWN THERE, TOO!



A FINE MAUL, FURIA! BUT IT'S TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T GET THE LEADER, BLACKHAWK, AND THE OTHER ONE, TOO!

I WILL, YAKOVI! THEY'LL ATTEMPT A RESCUE, AND WALK INTO MY TRAP! I HAVE 100 MEN WAITING TO POUNCE WHEN THEY COME!



HAVE 7 GRAVES DUG AT ONCE IN THE SQUARE! SEVEN GRAVES FOR SEVEN BLACKHAWKS... AND I GUARANTEE TOMORROW WILL SEE THEM FILLED!

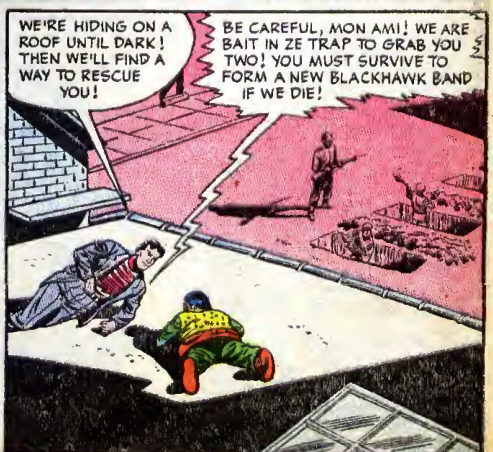
AT ONCE! AND I WILL HAVE THE FIRING SQUAD ALERTED FOR THE EXECUTION!



ALL CLEAR! DAS YEZEBEL HAS GONE!

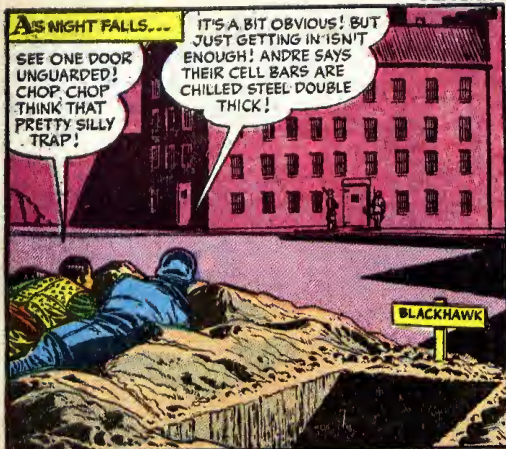
ANDRE TO BLACKHAWK! ARE YOU FREE?

FREE AS A BIRD... SO FAR!



WE'RE HIDING ON A ROOF UNTIL DARK! THEN WE'LL FIND A WAY TO RESCUE YOU!

BE CAREFUL, MON AMI! WE ARE BAIT IN ZE TRAP TO GRAB YOU TWO! YOU MUST SURVIVE TO FORM A NEW BLACKHAWK BAND IF WE DIE!



SUDDENLY FURIA'S VOICE RINGS ABOVE THE TUMULT!

SURRENDER, BLACK-HAWKS! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP OR WE'LL BLOW YOU AND THE DUNGEON TO BITS! I'LL COUNT TO THREE... ONE!

SAPRISTI! ZOSE ROCKETS CAN DO IT IN ONE SALVO! AND WE CAN'T EVEN SWING ZE TANK GUN AROUND TO FIGHT BACK!

GUESS WE'VE HAD IT FELLOWS! IT WAS A NICE TRY ANYHOW!

EEEEHHHHH! LOOK!

ROARRRRR

OUT OF THE NIGHT COMES AN OMINOUS TIDE OF VENGEFUL FURY!

DOWN WITH THE TYRANTS!

EEEEOW! THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS OUT TO MOB US! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

MY PEOPLE RISE AT LAST!

FIGHT THEM! SMASH THE TRAITORS!

WE CAN STILL GET AWAY...

NO, YOU CAN'T!

STICK AROUND! INSTEAD OF A PUBLIC EXECUTION, THERE'LL BE A PUBLIC TRIAL OF TWO TRAITORS! YOU'LL HAVE RINGSIDE SEATS!

EEEEHHH! LET ME GO! THEY'LL HANG ME!

YOU HAVE OUR ETERNAL GRATITUDE, BLACKHAWK! WE'LL GIVE THE PLOTTERS A FAIRER TRIAL THAN I'D HAVE GOTTEN!

NOW THAT YOUR PEOPLE ARE AROUSED TO DANGER, SIR, I'M SURE YOU WON'T HAVE ANY MORE REVOLTS! BUT CALL ON US IF YOU DO!

AND WITH THE DAWN THE WEARY BLACKHAWKS LIFT THEIR JETS TOWARD HOME!

WHILE FREEDOM LIVES AND TRAITORS FALL WE'RE ALL FOR ONE, AND ONE FOR ALL! WE'RE BLACKHAWKS!

The **BLACKHAWK** Plane From **NOWHERE**

WHEN Mark Rodes and Skip Fowler emerged from their two-seater racing plane at Linktown Airport, they stared at the long faces of the port attendants, noted the sober, quiet conference of officials in front of the hangar. Quickly the two young men approached Manager Ericson and inquired what was the matter.

"This is the matter," growled Ericson, passing a note to them. It was short and bleak. The airport officials were commanded to hang a mail pouch containing \$20,000 on a cord between two poles twenty feet high at the far end of the field, and keep all planes in the hangar until sunset. If they failed, the port, its buildings and installations would blow up—the writer of the note claimed to have planted powerful torpedo bombs at strategic points, to be set off at will by a touch on a concealed electric switch.

"What are you going to do?" asked Skip.

"Just what they tell us," groaned the manager. "Pay off."

"If you do," said Mark; "maybe they'll ask for more tomorrow."

"But we can't endanger the experimental planes and machinery here," protested Ericson. "Boys, if you can suggest anything—"

"We were going to stop here, but we won't," interrupted Mark, and he and Skip returned to their plane, entered it and took off. The sky-swaddling layer of cloud swallowed them up.

Ericson sighed as he watched the seeming desertion of his friends, then gave orders that the money be put in the mail bag and the scaffold set up to hang it. The airport crew watched. The sun descended. Then, from the cloudy sky dropped a rakish plane. A hook dangled. The plane swooped low, and rose again—from the hook trailed the bagful of money.

But as the robber craft rose through the cloud layer, the hovering racer of Mark and Skip came from a fleecy bank where it had circled and observed. It sped in pursuit of the stranger. Swift, swifter fled the thief, and on its tail sped the racing plane, like a hawk after a swallow. High over the distant mountains the two planes flashed. They seemed to be heading for the stratosphere. From the fugitive black-

mail craft came a spit of fire—it carried a machine gun, it was trying to destroy its enemy.

"Open fire, Mark," snapped Skip, from his place at the controls.

At once Mark touched the gun switch. Bullets spouted from the concealed barrels in the wings. As Skip coaxed a last burst of speed from his engines and swooped close, Mark scored his hit.

The stricken mystery craft seemed to flinch and stagger in the air. Then a parachute bloomed in space. The pilot was bailing out.

"Me, too!" cried Mark. "See you later, Skip!"

He dived out into the abyss. He counted the seconds. One. Two. Three. Then he pulled the ripcord, and his parachute opened. Far below, the enemy was dropping down. Skilfully tugging on the struts, Mark guided himself after his prey. Down they dropped, down. Below them was a grassy valley. The stranger struck earth first, and before he could free himself from the parachute harness, Mark guided himself to land full upon him.

When Skip made a landing and hurried to them, they were tangled in the rigging of both parachutes, and Mark had pinned his enemy helpless by the throat. To one side lay the mail pouch of money.

The lights of the airport glowed welcome as the captors returned with the recovered loot and the man who had taken it. He was a swarthy, brutal-faced character, who snarled defiance. "Okay," he said, "but those bombs will still go off any minute."

"We'll fix that," said Skip. "Ericson, order everybody off the field. Mark and I will tie this man up in the administration building to get full benefit of the blast."

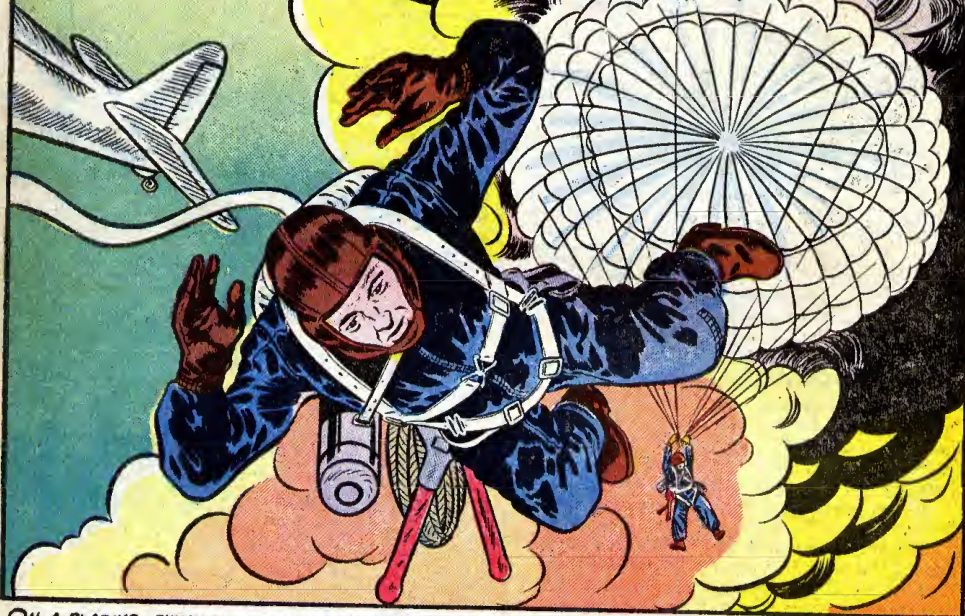
"Nix, nix!" bawled the captive. "Don't—I'll tell where they are. One bomb's in a locker in the lounge, another in the machine shop under the tool bench. Wires lead to a switch box in that thicket, ready to blast the airport."

"If I'd known what you were up to," said Ericson gratefully to Skip and Mark. "I'd have forbidden it—too risky."

"We knew you would," grinned Mark. "That's why we pulled out and followed our own program."

WHO GIVES A THOUGHT TO THE BRAVE, RESOURCEFUL MEN WHO GUARD OUR GREAT TIMBERED AREAS...THE FOREST RANGERS? WE READ EACH YEAR ABOUT THEIR BATTLES AGAINST THE SCOURGE OF THE WOODS... **FIRE!** WE HEAR THAT THEY EMPLOY SCIENCE, BRAINS, AND BRAWN... THAT THEIR ETHERNAL VIGILANCE SAVES THE LIVES OF CATTLE, GAME... AND YES, MEN! AND WE DISMISS THE TOPIC! NOW, HEARKEN TO THE TALE OF HEROIC RANGER CARL MILLER IN...

RESCUE FROM THE SKY



ON A BLAZING JULY DAY A FIRE STARTED IN THE FAR-FLUNG AVALON FOREST!

I MAKE IT EIGHTEEN MILES SOUTHWEST, JIM! HEAVY SMOKE WOULD INDICATE A SLOW GROUND FIRE!

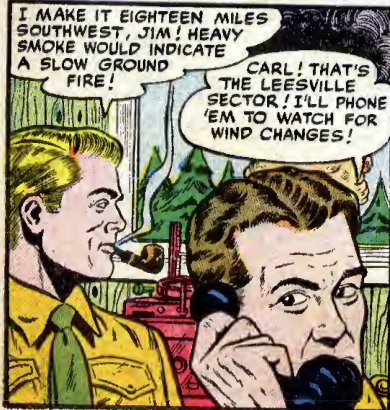
CARL! THAT'S THE LEESVILLE SECTOR! I'LL PHONE 'EM TO WATCH FOR WIND CHANGES!

SMOKY AND I WILL TAKE A GANDER FROM UPSTAIRS! MAYBE WE CAN SMOTHER IT WITH CARBON DIOXIDE!

"SMOKE JUMPERS" SUCH AS SMOKEY BATES, ARE A RECENT ADJUNCT TO THE FOREST SERVICE!

ALL SET, CARL!

HOP IN!



FLAMES RACE OVER THE TREE
TOPS... A CROWN FIRE!

WE'RE IN FOR
IT NOW! WIND'S
RISING AND
THAT FIRE'S
HEADED FOR
LEESVILLE!

HOW ABOUT
SAN MARCOS
FIELD SENDIN'
US SOME
JUMPERS?

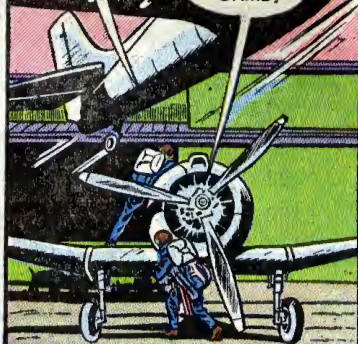


BLACKHAWK

SAN-MARCO'S FIELD SENDS HELP!

LOOKS LIKE
WE'RE IN FOR
A LITTLE FIRE
EATIN'!

YEAH, AN' ME ON
THE LOSIN' END
OF THAT
PINOCHLE
GAME!



**SMOKE JUMPERS BLOSSOM
OVER THE FIRE, EACH EQUIPPED
TO START BACKFIRES, DIG FIRE
TRAILS, KILL SPOT FIRES---**



HATE TO
LOSE THIS CHUTE,
BUT I'VE GOT
TO GET DOWN
THERE!



IF SHE
LEAPS THIS
FIRE TRAIL, WE
ARE IN FOR A
REALLY BAD
TIME!



TWO-
WAY
RADIO
KEEPS
PLANE AND
GROUND
CREWS IN
TOUCH---



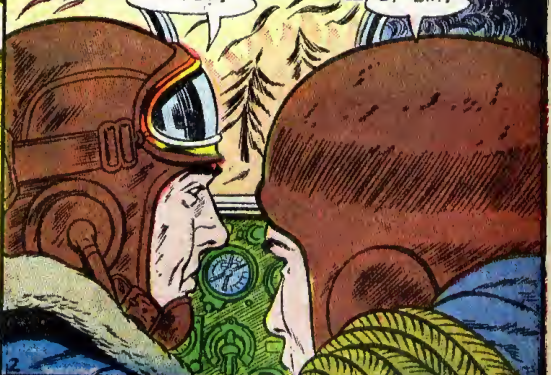
CM 24 TO
TOWER...FIRE
IN LEESVILLE
SECTOR PLENTY
BIG! SUGGEST
LARGE GROUND
CREW... OVER!

TOWER TO
CM 24...ROGER!
STAY UP-
STAIRS, CARL,
AND ADVISE
GROUND
CREW!

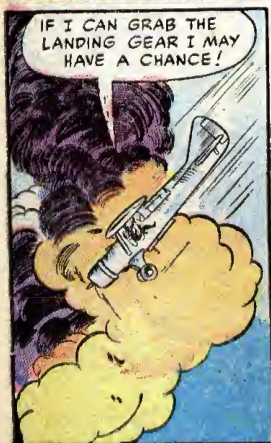
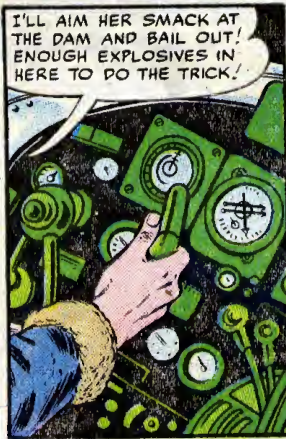
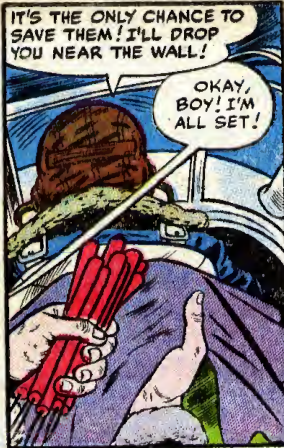


JEEPERS, SMOKY! THAT WIND
IS STARTIN' A LOT OF SPOT
FIRES!

YEAH, AN' LEESVILLE'S
RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE
OF 'EM!



BLACKHAWK



BLACKHAWK



MADE IT! NOW IF I CAN MAKE IT TO SHORE BEFORE THE DAM GOES OUT AND THE CURRENT GETS ME!

THE DAM GOES OUT WITH A MIGHTY ROAR!

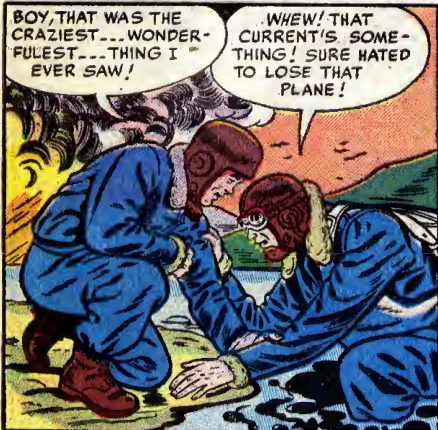


BOOM!



THE DAM'S OUT! HIT FOR HIGH GROUND!

WE'RE SAVED! THAT WATER'LL PUT OUT THE FIRE!



BOY, THAT WAS THE CRAZIEST... WONDERFULST... THING I EVER SAW!

WHEW! THAT CURRENT'S SOMETHING! I SURE HATED TO LOSE THAT PLANE!

LATER, THERE'S REJOICING IN LEESVILLE...



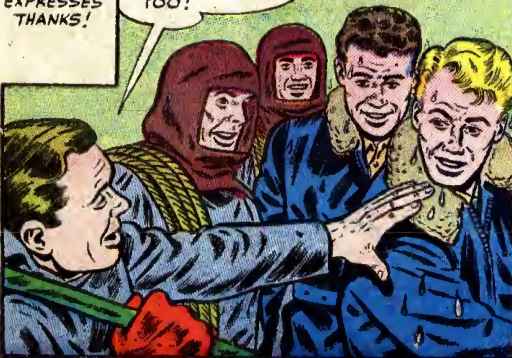
RANGER, YOU NOT ONLY SAVED OUR SKINS, BUT THE WHOLE DARN TOWN!

SHUCKS! THAT HAPPENS EVERY DAY IN THE FOREST SERVICE!

THE FORESTRY GROUND CREW EXPRESSES THANKS!

BOY, THAT WATER YOU SPILLED SAVED THE LITTLE OLD GROUND CREW, TOO!

STOP IT, YOU GUYS!



TAKE A BOW, CARL! YOU'RE A HERO! HEADQUARTERS JUST RADIOED YOU ARE UP FOR A CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL!

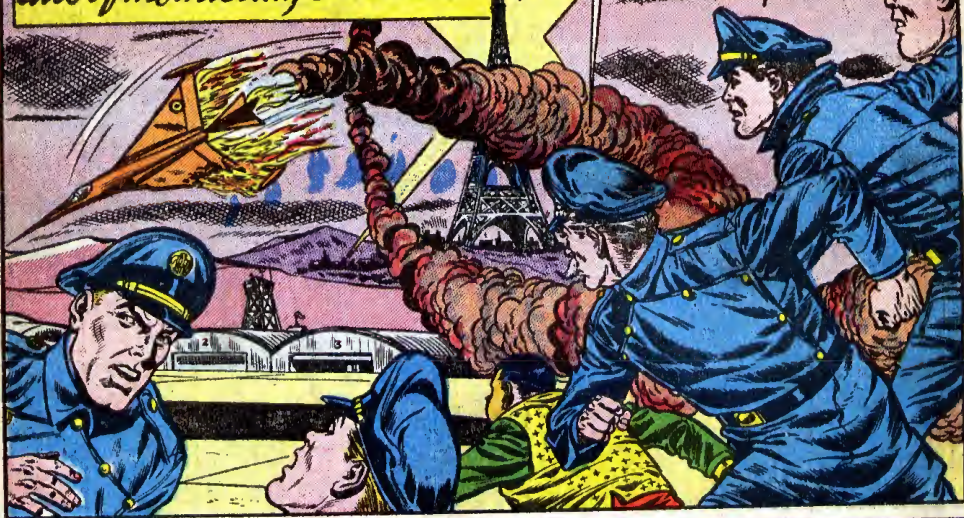
NO! FOR WHAT?



BLACKHAWK

CAN THIS BE TRUE? IS ANDRE, THE GAY, THE DARING, THE ROMANTIC, REALLY TORN FROM THE MIGHTY BLACKHAWK BAND FOREVER? IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE... YET NO MAN COULD LIVE THROUGH SUCH A FRIGHTFUL CRASH! YET, ON THE OTHER HAND, WHERE IS ANDRE'S BODY? AND WHOSE MYSTERIOUS VOICE WARNED THE BLACKHAWKS AWAY FROM A TRAP OF DEATH? THERE IS A CHILLING EPIC OF RAW COURAGE BEHIND THE FANTASTIC...

Case of the Missing Blackhawk

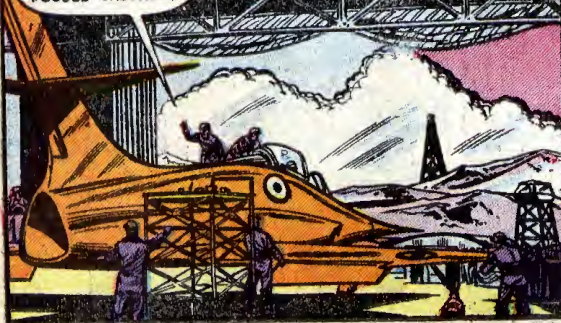


ANDRE! ANDRE!
ACH DU HIMMEL,
BLACKHAWK,
NOBODY COULD
SURVIVE SUCH A
CRASH!

AND IT WAS A
CLEAR CASE OF
SABOTAGE! WE'LL
GET THE RED VERMIN
RESPONSIBLE IF IT'S
THE LAST THING
WE DO!

ALL PARIS HAS TURNED OUT FOR THE FIRST PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION OF FRANCE'S NEW SUPERJET NIGHT FIGHTER, *LE CHAT*... THE CAT!

TRES BON! ALL
CONTROL CABLES
DOUBLE-CHECKED!



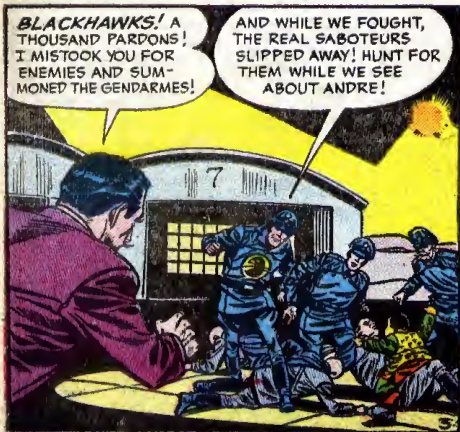
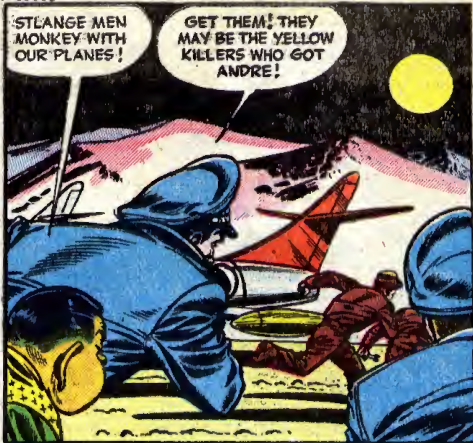
BUT THE DARK SHADOW OF TRAGEDY IS ALREADY CREEPING OVER THE SCENE OF GAYETY!

THE TIME
BOMB IS
SET?

CERTAINLY! IN ONE-
HALF HOUR... POOF!
NO MORE WONDER PLANE
FOR THE CAPITALISTIC
WAR-MONGERS...AND
ONE LESS BLACKHAWK!







MINUTES LATER, AT THE SCENE OF DESTRUCTION...

IT'S NO USE! NO ONE COULD SURVIVE THAT CRASH! WE CAN'T EVEN GET CLOSE UNTIL THE JET FUEL BURNS ITSELF OUT!

POOR ANDRE! I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, EVEN YET!

IN BITTER SILENCE THE BLACKHAWKS WAIT FOR THE FIRE TO DIE OUT!

WHA...? FELLOWS, COME HERE QUICK!

THERE'S NO BODY IN THE WRECKAGE... BUT THERE'S WHAT CAUSED THE BLAST! A TIME BOMB SET RIGHT UNDER THE PILOT'S SEAT!

YEEPEERS! POOR ANDRE BAN BLOWN RIGHT OUT OF PLANE BY DAS BOMB! HIS BODY BAN SOMEWHERE BACK IN DAS WOODS!

WE CAN'T HUNT FOR IT UNTIL DAYLIGHT, OLAF! MEANWHILE OUR BEST TRIBUTE TO ANDRE WOULD BE TO CATCH THE FIENDS WHO MURDERED HIM!

LET'S GO! ALL I ASK IS TO GET MY HANDS ON THE DIRTY COWARDS!

BACK AT THE SPRAWLING LILENE PLANT A SHORT TIME LATER...

MA'MSELLE LILENE IS PROSTRATED WITH SHOCK, BLACKHAWK! BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE'S A SABOTEUR IN OUR PLANT!

NOT ONE BUT SEVERAL! WE WANT ALL YOUR MEN ASSEMBLED HERE FOR QUESTIONING! WE'LL SEE MADAME-SELLE LILENE AND RETURN SOON!

YES... THEY'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR OR SO! THE MEN THEY ARE SEEKING WILL BE HERE... AND READY TO FINISH THE JOB! OUI!

AHHH! NOW TO PREPARE A NEAT TRAP FOR... WHA... AGHHH!

MEANWHILE...

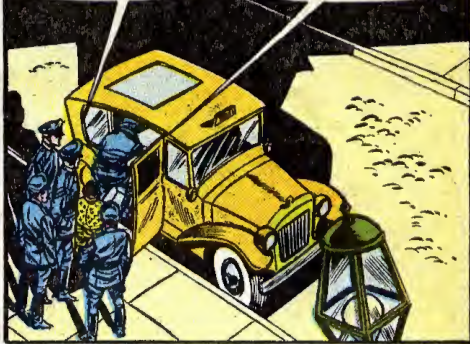
I... I CAN'T BELIEVE M'SIEU VILLON IS A RED AGENT, BLACKHAWK! BUT IF YOUR SUSPICIONS ARE CORRECT, I'LL PROSECUTE HIM TO THE HILT!

THAT'S ALL WE ASK, M'AMSELLE LILENE! WE'RE SORRY WE HAD TO INTRUDE AT SUCH A HARROWING TIME BUT WE'LL GET THE EVIDENCE!



MY VOTE SAYS VILLON IS OUR MAN! HE SCREENED THE MEN WHO WORKED ON THE PLANE... BUT NOBODY SCREENED HIM!

DOT. POOR LILENE! I FEEL SORRY FOR HER! SHE BUILT UP DER PLANE PLANT HER FATHER STARTED, UNDT NOW SHE FACES RUIN!



I'M IN NO MOOD FOR DIPLOMACY! WE'LL CONFRONT VILLON WITH OUR CHARGES AND... WHAT?

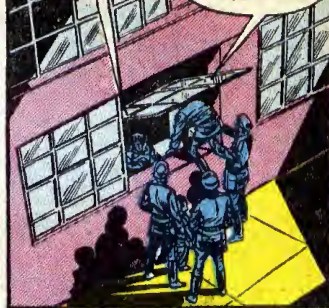
SSSS! BLACKHAWKS! AVOID MAIN ENTRANCE! IT IS A TRAP!

SPEAK UP, WHOEVER YOU ARE? WHO SENT THAT WARNING? SAY SOMETHING! IDENTIFY YOURSELF!

DONNEVETTER! DERE ISS NO ANSWER! BUT WHO COULD HAFF DISCOVERED DER SECRET FREQUENCY OF OUR BELT RADIOS?

WE CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE, ANYHOW! WE'LL GO IN THIS SIDE WINDOW AND SEE FOR OURSELVES IF THERE IS A TRAP!

BRRR! MAYBE DAS BAN ANDRE'S GHOST WARNING US! ONCE A BLACKHAWK, ALWAYS A BLACKHAWK!



BUT THE MYSTERIOUS WARNING WAS NO FAKE!

READY NOW! WHEN THEY OPEN THE DOOR, START SHOOTING! WE DON'T WANT TO RISK FACING THOSE DEADLY BLACKHAWK FISTS!

THEY'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT THEM!



BUT YOU'LL KNOW WHAT HIT YOU, MURDERER!

EEAHHHHH!

THE BLACKHAWKS!





THAT PROVES THAT VILLON IS IN ON THIS! LET'S GET HIM QUICK!

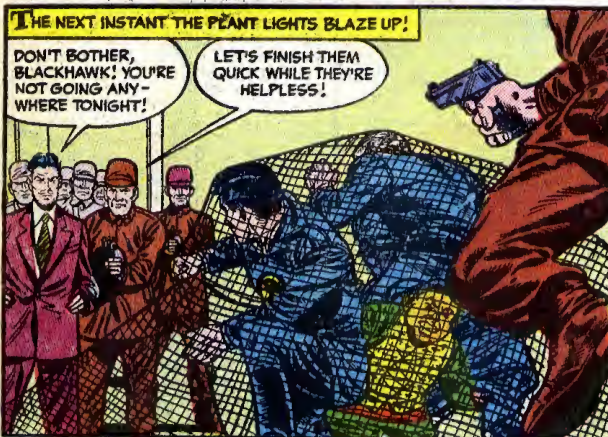
AND IT PROVES OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL GAVE US THE RIGHT STEER!



SUDDENLY...

YIIIIKE! SOMEBODY MAKE POOR FISHES OF BLACKHAWKS!

A STEEL NET! FIND THE EDGE AND SQUIRM UNDER IT...



THE NEXT INSTANT THE PLANT LIGHTS BLAZE UP!

DON'T BOTHER, BLACKHAWK! YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE TONIGHT!

LET'S FINISH THEM QUICK WHILE THEY'RE HELPLESS!



FOOLS! TONIGHT "SABOTEURS" WILL DESTROY THIS WHOLE PLANT... AND THE BLACKHAWKS WITH IT!

GUARD THEM WELL WHILE I ANSWER MY TELEPHONE!



OUI! THE BLACKHAWKS ARE HERE BUT THEY ARE ABOUT TO SUFFER A REGRETABLE ACCIDENT!

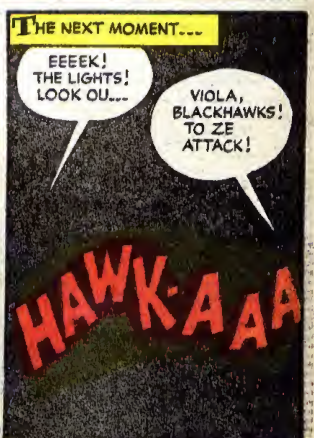
DON'T DO ANYTHING UNTIL I ARRIVE! I HAVE NEW INSTRUCTIONS!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

GOOD WORK, VILLON! THE BOMB THAT WRECKS MY PLANT WILL DESTROY THEM AND LEAVE NO EVIDENCE AGAINST US! WE'LL BLAME RED SABOTEURS! LIFT THE NET!

SO YOU'RE THE BRAIN BEHIND THE BOMB THAT DESTROYED ANDRE!



THE NEXT MOMENT...

EEEEK! THE LIGHTS! LOOK OU...

VIOLA, BLACKHAWKS! TO ZE ATTACK!

HAWK-A-A



NO YOU DON'T, SISTER!
YOU'LL STAY AND TAKE
YOUR MEDICINE!

CLICK

BLACKHAWK,
NON, NON!



MA' MSELLE LILENE
PROMISED ME ZIS
DANCE, REMEMBAIR?

YEEEEE!

ANDRE!
ALIVE AND
SAFE!

AFTER THE REDS ARE SUBDUED...



ANDRE, HOW DID
YOU ESCAPE THE
CRASH? WHERE
HAVE YOU BEEN?
WHAT BECAME
OF VILLON?

MON DIEU! ONE QUESTION
AT A TIME, PLEASE! ZE
STUPID REDS USED AN
ELECTRIC BOMB TIMER!
I HEARD ZE BUZZ IN MY
RADIO AND BAILED OUT
JUST BEFORE ZE BLAST!



I CAME BACK TO TRAP
ZE SABOTEUR AND HEARD
VILLON TAKE ORDERS BY
PHONE FROM HIS BOSS!
SO I TOOK HIS PLACE
LONG ENOUGH TO
TRAP ZE REAL
BOSS - AGENT!

UNDT
HELP
US
TRAP
DER
WHOLE
DIRTY
MOB, HEIN!



BEHOLD, HIS BEARD
WAS PHONY SO I
BORROWED IT! WE
ARE ZE SAME
SIZE AND BUILD!
EVERYONE WAS
FOOLED
COMPLETE-
MENT!

GREAT WORK,
ANDRE! WITHOUT
YOUR NERVE, WE'D
NEVER HAVE
CAUGHT LILENE
SO EASILY! SHE
HAD HER TRACKS
COVERED WELL!



THANKS TO YOU, BLACKHAWK,
THE GREAT AIRPLANE FACTORY
IS UNDAMAGED! SOON A NEW
LE CHAT WILL BE ROLLING
OUT TO SERVE DEMOCRACY!

THE THANKS MUST GO
TO ANDRE! HE
EXPOSED THE
WHOLE PLOT!



BUT IF YOU EVER SCARE
US LIKE THAT AGAIN,
ANDRE, I'LL BUST YOU
RIGHT IN THE KISSER!

AND WE'LL ALL HELP HIM!
THAT WAS THE ROUGHEST
NIGHT ANY OF US EVER
WENT THROUGH!

BLACKHAWK

BLACKHAWK

THIS IS THE BOTTLE THAT SHOCKED THE WORLD AND THIS IS THE HAVOC IT WROUGHT!



THE BLACKHAWKS HAD DESIGNED AN ATOMIC SUBMARINE THAT WOULD GO DEEPER THAN ANY CRAFT EVER DEvised BY MAN! THEY LIE NOW ON THE OCEAN FLOOR AT 2500 FATHOMS... 15,000 FEET... IN A COFFIN OF STEEL THAT CAN NEVER RISE! THE ONLY OTHER VESSEL ON EARTH CAPABLE OF REACHING THAT AWESOME DEPTH BELONGS TO THE COMMUNISTS... WHO HAD DELIBERATELY CONDEMNED THE BLACKHAWKS TO...

DOOM IN THE DEEP



IT'S HOPELESS! OUR SURFACING SYSTEM IS SABOTAGED BEYOND REPAIR!

IT WAS THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 7TH... ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR... THAT THE WORLD FIRST HEARD OF A NEW INFAMY...

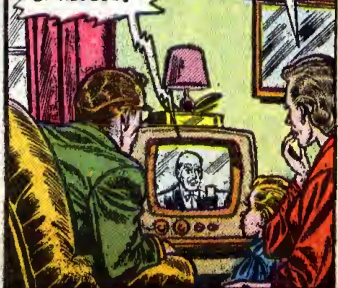


STOP THAT MUSIC! CUT THE PROGRAM! GIVE ME ALL CAMERAS AND MIKES AT ONCE!

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM TO BRING YOU FIRST REPORTS OF THE MOST STAGGERING DISASTER OF MODERN TIMES!



THE BLACKHAWKS ARE DYING TONIGHT... TRAPPED IN THE UNREACHABLE DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN BY FIENDISH RED SABOTAGE! THERE IS NO HOPE OF RESCUE!



OH, WHAT WILL BECOME OF OPPRESSED PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD NOW?

EVEN AS THE TERRIFYING NEWS FLASHES AROUND THE WORLD, MEN SPRING TO THEIR HOPELESS TASKS...

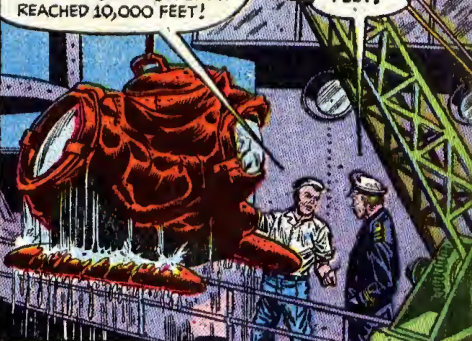
SUBMARINE RESCUE UNITS ARE RUSHING TO THE LONELY SPOT...



MEN MUST TRY THE IMPOSSIBLE...THOUGH THEY KNOW IT IS FUTILE!

IT'S HOPELESS, SIR! OUR STRONGEST DIVING BELL WAS CRUSHED FLAT BY WATER PRESSURE BEFORE IT REACHED 10,000 FEET!

THEN THE BLACKHAWKS ARE DOOMED! THEY'RE LYING AT 15,000 FEET!



THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS SUMMONED THE WORLD'S TOP SCIENTISTS TO AN EMERGENCY MEETING...

YES, GENTLEMEN, WE CAN DESIGN A SUPER-DIVING BELL THAT WILL SURVIVE THE PRESSURE AT 15,000 FEET!

HOORAY! GET GOING AT ONCE! SAVE THE BLACK-HAWKS!



...BUT IT WILL TAKE 14 MONTHS TO CONSTRUCT!

THEN THERE IS NO HOPE! THEY CAN'T SURVIVE 14 DAYS, LET ALONE 14 MONTHS!



BUT ONE PLACE IN THE WORLD HAS A DIFFERENT REACTION TO THE NEWS! IN MOSCOW'S KREMLIN...

NA ZDOROVIE! COMRADE BERKOV'S GENIUS HAS DESTROYED OUR WORST ENEMIES! NOW WE CAN PUSH AHEAD WITH OUR GLORIOUS PLANS!

I PROMISED YOU SENSATIONAL RESULTS WHEN I BECAME CHIEF OF SABOTAGE, COMRADES! THIS IS ONLY A BEGINNING!



THE STORY HAS ITS BEGINNING TWO YEARS AGO ON A NIGHT OF WHAT SEEMED LIKE SENSELESS ACTION! A MOB OF WORKMEN WERE AROUSED...

DON'T GET TOO ROUGH, MEN! THESE WORKMEN ARE MORE DELUDED THAN VICIOUS!

DOWN WITH BLACKHAWK WAR-MONGERS! WE WANT PEACE! DESTROY THEIR PLANS FOR NEW WEAPONS OF WAR!



BATTLING FOR THEIR LIVES, NONE OF THE BLACK-HAWKS SEE A STRANGE, CAMERA-LIKE BOX...OR NOTICE THE FLICKER OF AN ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT!

THEY'RE BREAKING OFF! LET THEM GO, FELLOWS!

YEAH! SURE! WE CAN LET THEM GO!



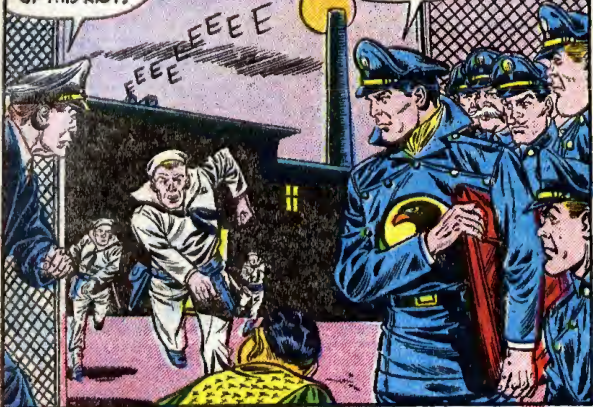
MOMENTS LATER... BNA... STRICTLY

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, BLACKHAWK? I JUST GOT WORD OF THIS RIOT!

WE'RE FINE, ADMIRAL! THE COMMIES STIRRED UP A MOB AGAINST US BUT I'M STILL HANGING ON TO OUR SUPER-SUB PLANS!

THERE! THE PLANS FOR THE NEW ATOMIC SUPER-SUBMARINE ARE SAFELY LOCKED UP! AS SUPERINTENDENT OF CONSTRUCTION, YOU'LL HAVE ACCESS TO THEM, CARTER!

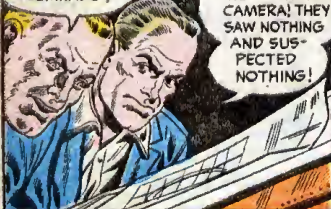
I'LL GUARD THEM WITH MY LIFE, BLACKHAWK!



BUT LATER THAT SAME NIGHT...

PERFECT! HERE ARE FULL PLANS FOR THE BLACK-HAWK SUPERSUB! HOW DID YOU GET ACCESS TO THEIR LOCKED CASE, COMRADE?

I DIDN'T! I PHOTOGRAPHED THEM THROUGH THE CASE WITH A NEW X-RAY CAMERA! THEY SAW NOTHING AND SUSPECTED NOTHING!



AS THE MONTHS PASSED, THE NEW SUPERSUB TOOK SHAPE! THE BLACKHAWKS CAME FREQUENTLY TO WATCH AND INSPECT AND APPROVE!

IT'S A MIRACLE, BLACKHAWK! THE FIRST SUB THAT WILL CRUISE BELOW 12,000 FEET... AND THE REDS CAN'T BEGIN TO MATCH IT!

I HOPE NOT, SIR! BUT I CAN'T FORGET THAT SENSELESS RIOT THAT EXPLODED THE NIGHT WE DELIVERED THE PLANS!



IT WAS MORE LIKE A COVER-UP FOR SOME DARKER DEED... BUT I KNOW THE PLANS WERE NEVER OUT OF MY SIGHT!

RELAX, BLACKHAWK! THIS TIME I'M SURE WE REALLY HAVE THE EDGE ON COMMUNIST HOPES TO DOMINATE THE SEA!



BUT AT THAT MOMENT, AT A SECRET RED SUBMARINE BASE...

WE...WE ARE FOLLOWING THE STOLEN BLACK-HAWK PLANS EXACTLY, COMRADE BERKOV!

BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH, DOLT! IF THE CAPITALIST WORLD LAUNCHES ITS SUB FIRST, YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF IN SIBERIA!



AT LAST THE MONTHS OF EFFORT REACH A CLIMAX IN THE FREE WORLD!

I CHRISTEN THEE **SEA HAWK** IN HONOR OF THE BLACKHAWKS!





EVERYTHING CHECKS! WE'LL TAKE HER OUT AT DAWN FOR THE DEEP DIVING TRIALS, BUT THEY SHOULD BE ROUTINE! A FINE JOB, CARTER!

THANKS, BLACK-HAWK! SHE'S PASSED EVERY OTHER TEST WITH FLYING COLORS!



YOU KNOW THE EXTREME SECURITY ORDER, GUARD! NO ONE IS TO GO ABOARD BEFORE DAWN...NOT EVEN BLACKHAWK OR THE ADMIRAL!

YES, SIR, NOT EVEN YOU, SIR, FOR FEAR IT MAY BE A RED AGENT IN DISGUISE!

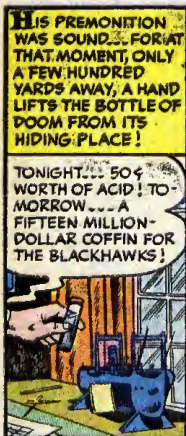
ATIVELY NO TANCE



MEN SAY THE BLACKHAWKS HAVE NO NERVES... BUT THAT NIGHT BLACKHAWK WAS HAUNTED BY AN UNCANNY SENSE OF IMPENDING DISASTER!

VAS IST, BLACKHAWK? ALL YOU DO IS PACE DER FLOOR!

I WISH I KNEW, HENDRICKSON! I CAN'T SHAKE OFF THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING'S TERRIBLY WRONG... YET I DON'T SEE WHAT IT COULD BE!



HIS PREMONITION WAS SOUND... FOR AT THAT MOMENT, ONLY A FEW HUNDRED YARDS AWAY, A HAND LIFTS THE BOTTLE OF DOOM FROM ITS HIDING PLACE!

TONIGHT... 50¢ WORTH OF ACID! TO MORROW... A FIFTEEN MILLION-DOLLAR COFFIN FOR THE BLACKHAWKS!



MINUTES LATER...

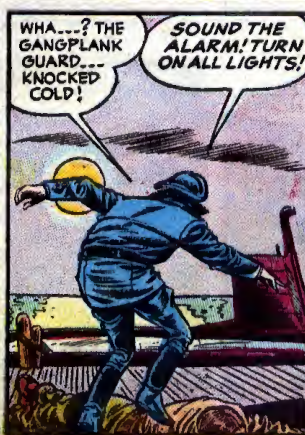


BALLAST PUMP GEARS
KEEP WELL GREASED
GREASE HERE



MEANWHILE... GO ON TO SLEEP, FELLOWS! I'M GOING TO TRY TO WALK OFF THIS CRAZY CASE OF JITTERS! IT'S GETTING ME DOWN!

CHOP CHOP THINK IF BLACKHAWK UNEASY, SOMETHING'S VELLY WRONG SOME-WHERE! NOT SLEEP FOR SMALL WHILE!



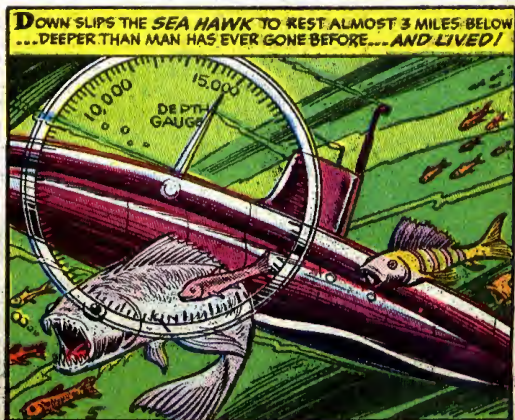
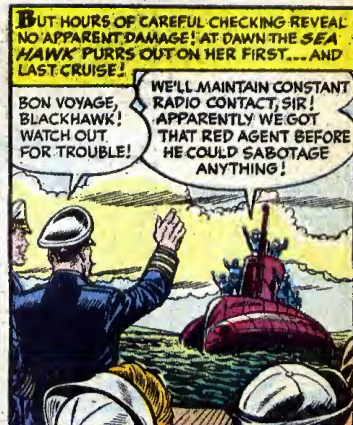
WHA...? THE GANGPLANK GUARD... KNOCKED COLD!

SOUND THE ALARM! TURN ON ALL LIGHTS!



HALT! STAND WHERE YOU ARE!

IT'S BLACKHAWK AND TROUBLE! CHALLENGE ONCE, THEN SHOOT! THOSE ARE OUR ORDERS!





AFTER HOURS OF CRUSHING PRESSURE, THE GREAT HULL IS STILL TIGHT AND SOUND!

OKEY-DOKE!
ALL DLY!

THEN WE'VE
DONE IT, MEN! STAND
BY TO SURFACE! BLOW
FORE AND AFT BALLAST
TANKS!

JAWOHL!



DER BALLAST
PUMPS!

CUT-THE
SWITCH!



NOW AT LAST COMES THE TERRIBLE
MOMENT OF REALIZATION!

THE GEARS HAVE
BEEN EATEN AWAY
BY A CHEMICAL!
THAT'S WHY THEY
WORKED OKAY
WHEN WE FIRST
TESTED THEM!

THEN
WE'RE TRAPPED
HERE! THERE'S NO
WAY IN THE WORLD
TO SURFACE WITH-
OUT PUMPING THE
BALLAST WATER
FROM THE TANKS!



THE HOPELESS HOURS DRAG ON...

HOPE WANES
TONIGHT FOR
THE TRAPPED
BLACKHAWKS!
THE LAST EFFORT
TO REACH THEM
WAS ABANDONED
AT SUNDOWN...

TO LIVE IN ZE SKY
AND DIE IN ZE
SEA! IT IS
IRONY! BUT ZERE
IS NO CRAFT
ON EARTH ZAT
CAN REACH US!
IT EES THE END
FOR US!



BUT THERE IS A CRAFT!
STAND BY WHILE I TAKE A
DESPERATE GAMBLE!



ADMIRAL, WE'VE DIS-
COVERED THE MOST
POWERFUL FORCE ON
EARTH DOWN HERE! IT'S
SO FRIGHTFUL I DON'T
EVEN DARE TELL YOU
BY RADIO!

YUPITER!
BLACKHAWK
BAN OUT OF
HIS MIND!



IN THE KREMLIN, THE REDS ARE MONITOR-
ING THE BLACKHAWK RADIO...

I'VE WRITTEN OUT
FULL DETAILS! WHEN
YOU FINALLY REACH
THE SUB, YOU'LL
FIND IT ON MY
BODY! DON'T LET
ANYONE ELSE GET
IT!

IF THERE'S
A FORCE THAT
POWERFUL, WE'VE
GOT TO HAVE IT!
WITH OUR COPY
OF THEIR SUPER-
SUB, WE CAN
REACH THEM
FIRST!



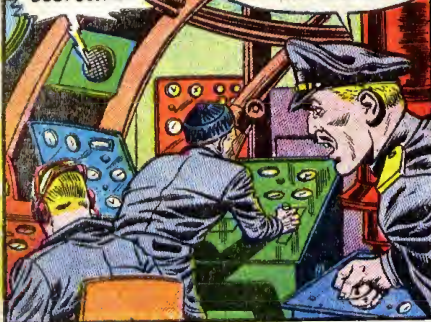
BUT...BUT WE
HAVEN'T TESTED
OUR SUB AT
THOSE DEPTHS,
COMRADE BERKOV!

FOOL! IDIOT! TEST IT BY
REACHING THE BLACKHAWK
SUB AT ONCE! BE READY
TO SAIL IN ONE HOUR! I'M
GOING WITH YOU!

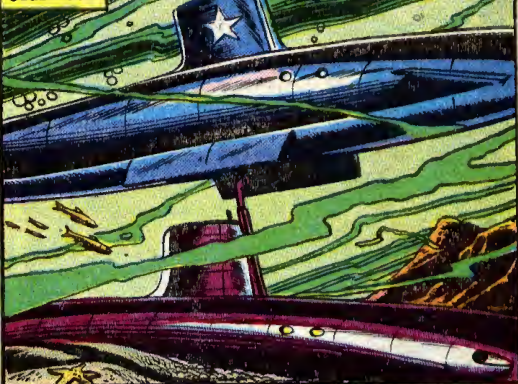
BY DAWN, THE RED SUPERSUB IS FAR AT SEA...

OUR AIR... SUPPLY...
FAILING! THIS IS... THE
BLACKHAWKS' LAST...
TRANSMISSION!
GOODBYE.....

FASTER! FASTER! IF THE
CAPITALIST WARMONGERS
FIND A WAY TO GET THERE
FIRST, YOU'LL ALL FACE A
FIRING SQUAD!



HOURS LATER THE RED CRAFT SETTLES SLOWLY INTO NARCS DEEP,
ITS PRESSURE HATCH OPEN TO RECEIVE THE CONNING TOWER
BELOW...



THEY'RE FINISHED! WE'LL LEAVE
THEIR BODIES HERE! ALL I WANT IS
THE SECRET OF THAT TERRIBLE
POWER!

WE'LL BE
GLAD TO
SHOW YOU,
COMRADE
SUCKER!



IT'S THE POWER OF RED
GREED COMBINED WITH THE
POWER OF BLACKHAWK
FISTS!

JAWOHL! WE
VILL HAND OUT
SAMPLES,
NEIN?



STUNNED BY SURPRISE, THE REDS FALL
EASY VICTIMS TO THE MEN THEY HAD
DOOMED TO DEATH!

LET'S GO, FELLOWS!
THE CONTROLS ARE
AN EXACT COPY OF
OURS, SO WE WON'T
HAVE ANY TROUBLE
NAVIGATING!

I NEVER THOUGHT
I'D LIVE TO SEE
THE DAY I WAS
GLAD THE REDS
STOLE OUR
SECRET PLANS!

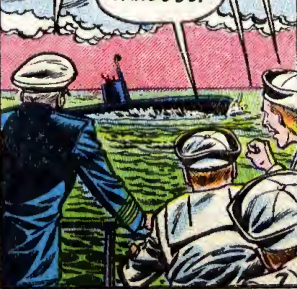


WHAT TH...? IT'S
BLACKHAWK!
THE
BLACKHAWKS
ARE SAVED!

HOORAYYYY!

YIPPEE!

YAHOOOO!



WITHIN AN HOUR THE FREE WORLD
KNEW... AND CELEBRATED THE GREAT-
EST BLACKHAWK VICTORY OF ALL!

THE
BLACKHAWKS
ARE SAVED!

THE
BLACKHAWKS
ARE SAVED!

